

Book Review

by Doris Mousdale, 31 August 2017

Sanctuary: Aotea/Great Barrier Island International Dark Sky Sanctuary

**Gendie and Richard Somerville-Ryan
Nalayini and Gareth Davies**

16 August 2017

Published for Destination Great Barrier Island Charitable Trust

by Gendie and Richard Somerville-Ryan

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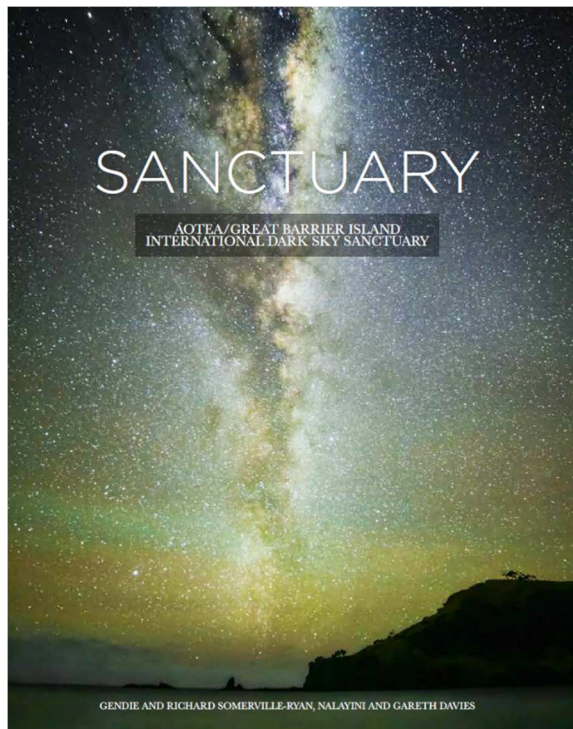
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Hot off the press and published to mark the recognition of Great Barrier Island being designated an International Dark Sky Sanctuary (as defined by the International Dark-Sky Association). In layman's terms, this means on a clear night on Great Barrier Island you can see myriads of stars in the sky without the aid of sophisticated telescopes. It also means that with technology and observatories you can study deep into space. The book is full of excellent photographs of the special skies and there are chapters on the local flora and fauna and the geological make-up of this special island out in the Hauraki Gulf. It also explains how the night sky was measured to demonstrate the almost non-existent light pollution and the resultant pristine skies. Sanctuary is informative, accessible and

fascinating in its description of how a group of talented enthusiasts set out to put in a proposal to see if they could be the first Island in the world to be granted the Dark Sky Sanctuary status.

This book will please those who know about astronomy in general but it is also an exciting step to introduce and encourage absolute beginners to reach for the stars we sleep under and pay more attention to what you can see under a night sky unpolluted by lights from the big city. And as an extra bonus, any funds raised from the proceeds of Sanctuary will be used to further astro-tourism and economic development on the island.

Doris Mousdale

As reviewed on Newstalk ZB, BBC Worldservice and the Auckland Astronomic Society Journal